

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/671,966

Examiner

Jeffrey R. Snay

Applicant(s)

SCHEMBRI ET AL.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the telephone interviews of 08/11/04 and 08/12/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 43-45.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 09 October 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date 08112004.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136(a) is required in order to make an examiner's amendment which places this application in condition for allowance. During a telephone conversation conducted on 08-12-2004, Susan Tall (reg. # 52272), for applicant, requested an extension of time for 2 MONTH(S) and authorized the Director to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1078 the required fee of \$420.00 for this extension and authorized the following examiner's amendment. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claims 1-42 have been cancelled.

New claims 43-45 have been added, as follows:

43. (New) A method of reading an array of moieties on at least a portion of a surface of a transparent slide which is opposite a first portion on an opposite surface, which array has been previously exposed to a sample, the method comprising:

(a) mounting the slide on a slide holder and retaining the slide thereon in a mounted position without the array contacting the holder, wherein the holder has:

a body having side portions and a channel intermediate the side portions and extending in a direction between ends of the body, and

front and rear clamp member sets with members disposed about the channel, one set of which is fixed to the body side portions while the other set is movable to an open position away from the fixed set,

and wherein the slide is retained in the mounted position by being urged against the fixed clamp member set; and

(b) inserting the holder into an array reader and reading the array.

44. (New) A method of reading an array of moieties on at least a portion of a rear surface of a transparent slide which is opposite a first portion on the front surface, which array has been previously exposed to a sample, the method comprising:

(a) mounting the slide on a slide holder and retaining the slide thereon in a mounted position in which the previously exposed array faces, and is spaced apart from, a backer member of the holder without the array contacting the holder, wherein the holder has:

a body having side portions and a channel intermediate the side portions and extending in a direction between ends of the body, the backer member comprising a bottom surface of the channel, and

front and rear clamp member sets with members disposed about the channel, one set of which is fixed to the body side portions while the other set is movable to an open position away from the fixed set,

and wherein the slide is retained in the mounted position by being urged against the fixed clamp member set; and

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- (b) inserting the holder into an array reader and reading the array.

45 (New) A method of reading an array of moieties on at least a portion of a rear surface of a transparent slide which is opposite a first portion on the front surface, which array has been previously exposed to a sample, the method comprising:

- (a) mounting the slide on a slide holder and retaining the slide thereon in a mounted position in which the previously exposed array faces, and is spaced apart from, a backer member of the holder without the array contacting the holder, wherein the holder has a body having a channel with a closed end, wherein the backer member comprises a bottom surface of the channel, and wherein the mounting of the slide on the holder comprises sliding the slide in an endways direction of the channel and into the mounted position in which a leading end of the slide abuts the closed end of the channel; and

- (b) inserting the holder into an array reader and reading the array.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: New claims 43-45 correspond to previous claims 9, 10 and 15 respectively, which were previously objected to as allowable but dependent upon a rejected base claim, now rewritten in independent form.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

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accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jeffrey R. Snay whose telephone number is (571) 272-1264. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jill A. Warden can be reached on (571) 272-1267. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Jeffrey R. Snay
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1743

jrs